

MARVEL

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28

NATURAL RESOURCES

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ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN®



JOHNSON

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see inside for details

**LIVING IN A WORLD
WHERE MUTANTS ARE
HATED AND FEARED MORE
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS
BANDED TOGETHER TO
FIGHT BACK.**

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY:

The mutants are surrounded. The Army has set Utopia ablaze. Everything rests on this battle.

Meanwhile, Jean Grey has discovered that Psylocke is not who she claimed to be. Psylocke, or the agent pretending to be Psylocke, is actually a mole who had infiltrated Utopia! All along, she had been psychically manipulating both sides of the conflict - the soldiers and the mutants - in order to create a war that would exterminate mutantkind. But just before the imposter could finish the job, Fambird came to the rescue, crushing "Psylocke" and breaking her psychic trance over Utopia.

But is it too late? Is the battle for mutantkind imminent? Rogue may have a solution...a way to fight back so that no mutant will be harmed...

The sentient seed!

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"Listen to them, the screams..."



...They're being ripped apart...



You sound like you approve.

We all die, Jean Grey.

And for our kind, it's rarely peaceful.



I'm nothing like you. *Whatever* you are.

SHE IS EVIL, MISTRESS.

...bah...



...*"Evil"* is a poorly used word...

...Would you not consider yourself a villain...?



By your silence and your thoughts, I know you agree.

I believe in the greater good.

We all do.



SHE IS DYING,
MISTRESS.

...Jean,
come close...



...my telepathy
is failing, as is my
voice...

IT IS NO
TRICK. SHE HAS
MERE SECONDS
LEFT.

What
is it?



...I was here
to preside over
the extinction of
the mutants...

...but in these
last moments, I
see my death need
not be a barrier
to success...



...I believe there
is one that may yet
bring my mission to
completion...

And
who is
that?



You, Jean
Grey.

***NATURAL
RESOURCES
UTOPIA UNITED!***

WOOD ASRAR

VLASCO BELLAIRE



The battle ended soon after that.

The soldiers, free from the impersonator Psylocke's control, quickly saw the situation for what it was...



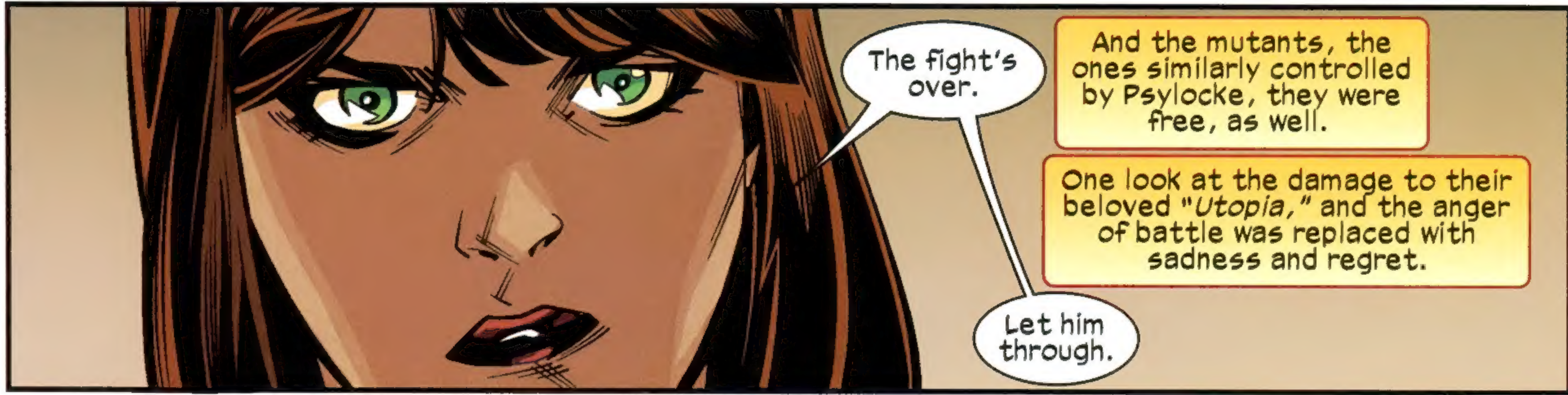
...A battle needlessly escalated, and one that the army had little chance of winning.



Kitty Pryde!

It's that General...

It's okay.



The fight's over.

And the mutants, the ones similarly controlled by Psylocke, they were free, as well.

One look at the damage to their beloved "Utopia," and the anger of battle was replaced with sadness and regret.

Let him through.



I've ordered a full retreat and withdrawal.

I still have my orders, but if Washington persists in enforcing this resolution of theirs, they'll have to do it *diplomatically*.

It's an effective deterrent you have here, this jungle.

She's one of us.



Indeed.

This didn't need to happen. May I offer you some advice, Ms. Pryde?



You won your war of independence; you have your land and your people. Hell, you even have an ideology.

People are afraid of you. Of mutants, of what this place represents. Stop reminding them of it.

Stay off the Internet, stay off the airwaves. Stop holding press conferences where you offer to *fix the world's problems*.



Lay low, work on your problems here, live your lives. Just *be*.

Stop giving people excuses to come after you.

You think that's what we're doing, General Ross?



Stop
blaming the
victim.

All my life, all
our lives, all we've felt
is the pressure to hide who
we are, that the way to avoid
prejudice and violence is to
be as meek and quiet
as possible...

...and
even *that*
doesn't always
work.

The problem
isn't *us*. We don't
need to change
how we act.



Just a suggestion.
You all are so *young*...
don't you want to just
enjoy yourselves?



What we
wouldn't give for
our childhoods back,
General Ross.

What *human*
kids take for
granted, we can
only dream
of having.



Tell *that* to
your Washington
bosses.



Their resilience is impressive. Even in the face of existential threats and complete betrayal...



...They persevere, burying old grudges, mending relationships and trusts.

They speak of Psylocke--or whatever she was--briefly.

They can trace her influence back to even before Utopia was founded.



To me, this shows the steps the American government will take to suppress mutant rights, but here they just seem relieved to trust each other again.

To them, this is a vindication of purpose and integrity. Not only was Kitty Pryde's ideology never compromised, the rebellion in their midst was *engineered from the outside*.



They are so proud...



...so pleased...



...and so loyal.

"These mutants will be *valuable assets* to Tian, Farbird."

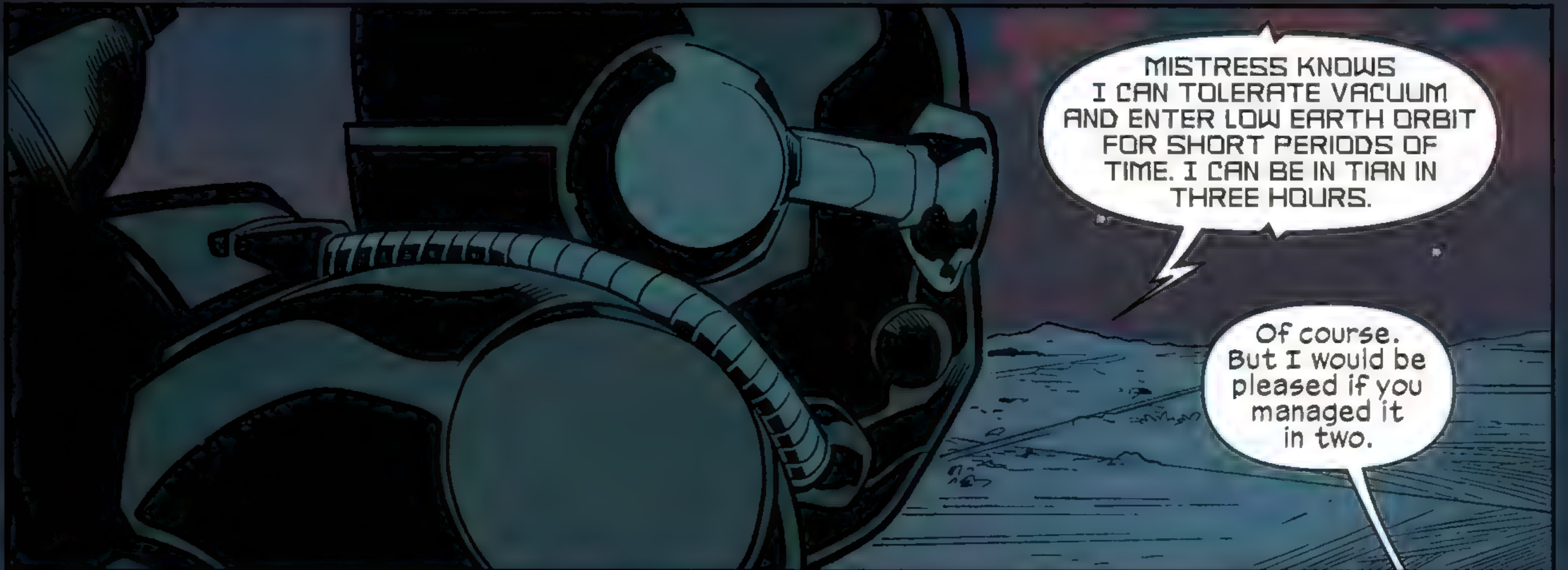




YES,
MISTRESS.

But we're
not quite there.
Not yet.

I want you to
return to Tian.
How quickly can
you do that?



MISTRESS KNOWS
I CAN TOLERATE VACUUM
AND ENTER LOW EARTH ORBIT
FOR SHORT PERIODS OF
TIME. I CAN BE IN TIAN IN
THREE HOURS.

Of course.
But I would be
pleased if you
managed it
in two.



YES,
MISTRESS.

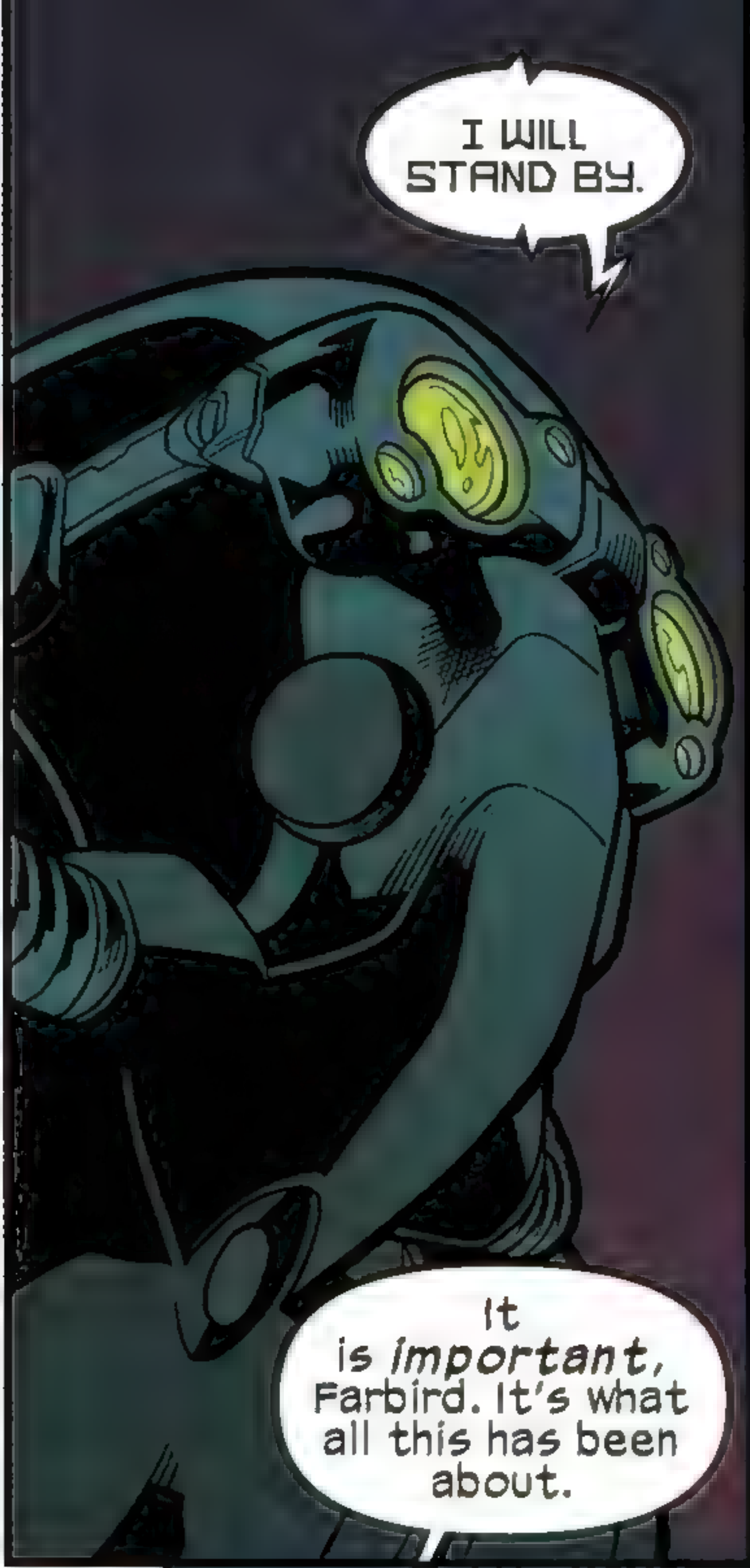
SHALL I REPORT
IN TO THE OTHERS
ONCE I ARRIVE?

No...



...Go directly to
my private quarters,
and prep for Project
Activation. *Code name:*
supersonic. Use my
private passcode.

And
wait for my
word.



I WILL
STAND BY.

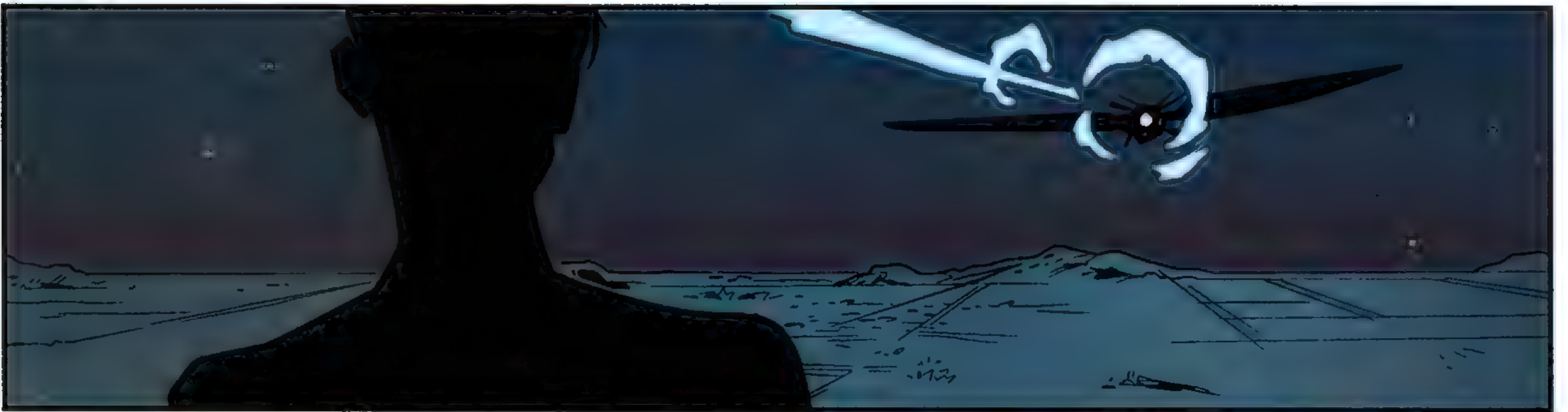
It
is *important*,
Farbird. It's what
all this has been
about.



With
luck, it will be
unnecessary.

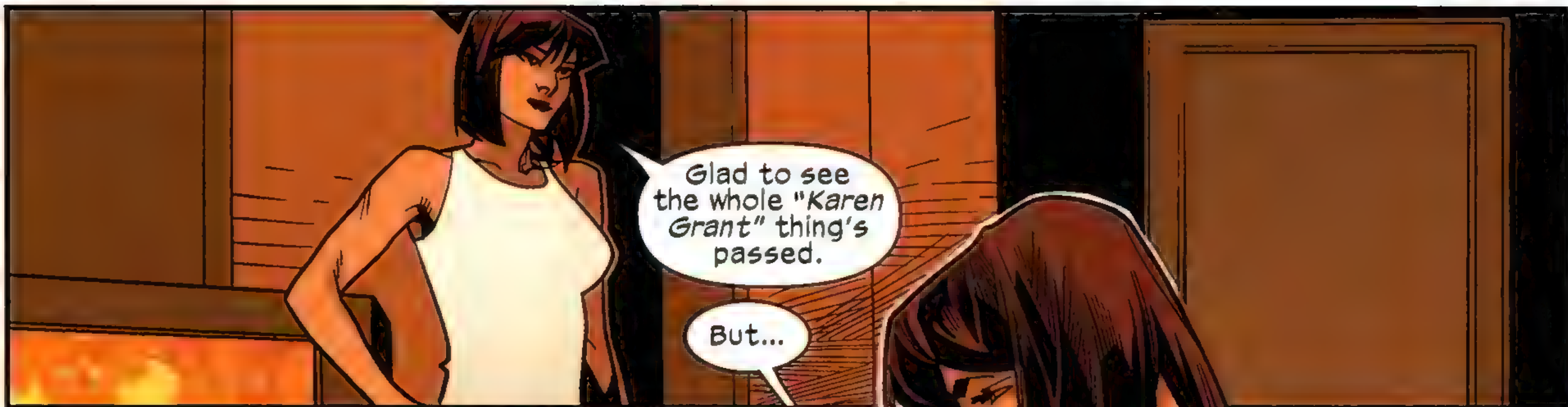
But we will
be prepared all
the same. Fly
well, Farbird.

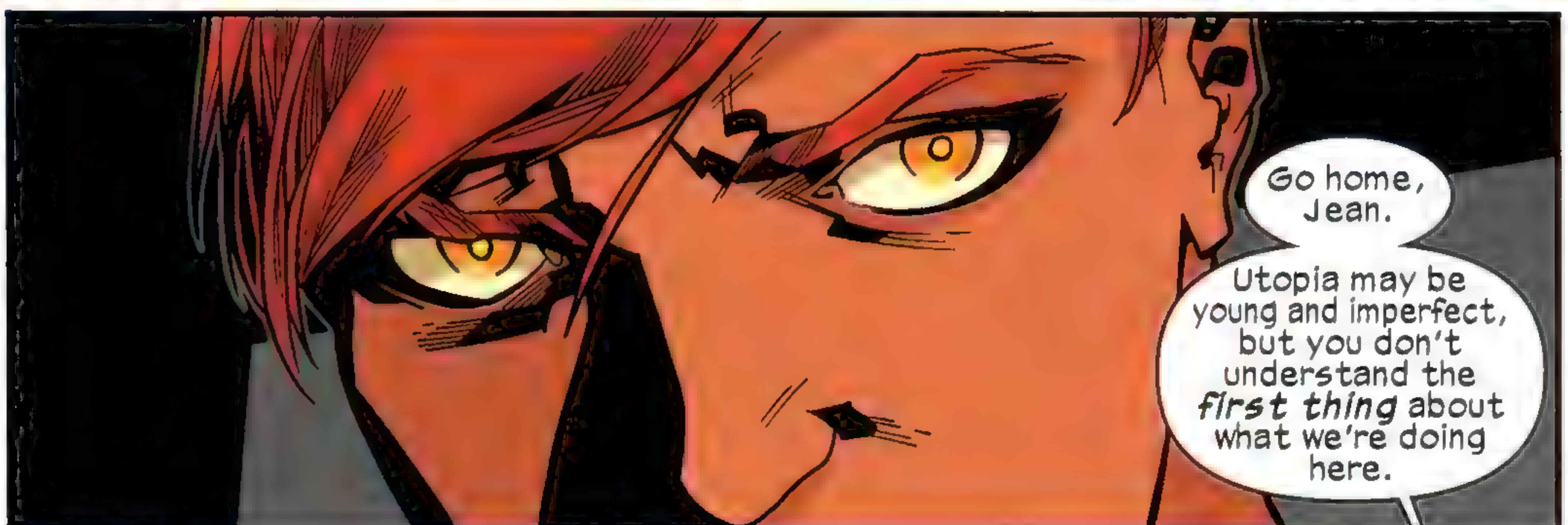
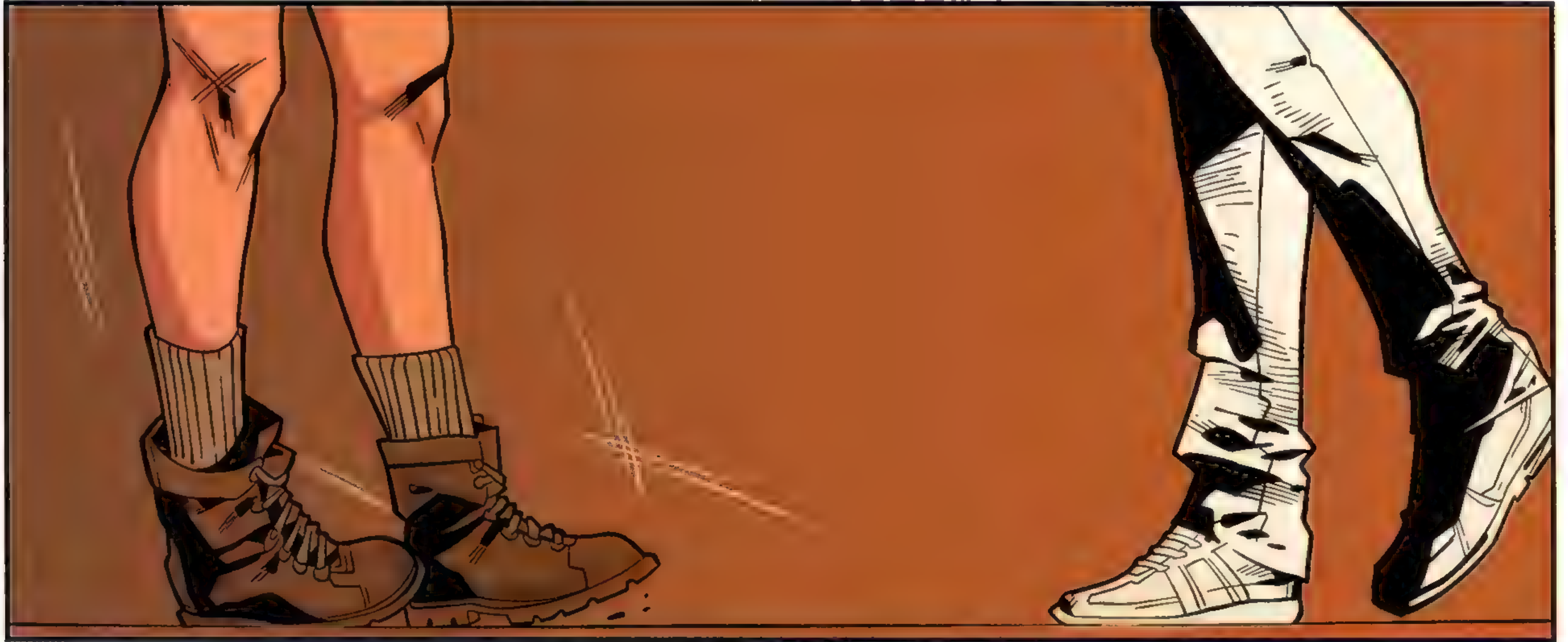
YOU ARE THE
MISTRESS OF TIAN
AND ITS PEOPLE LOVE
YOU FOR YOUR
WISDOM AND
PROTECTION.



I know.

"You're Jean
Grey."







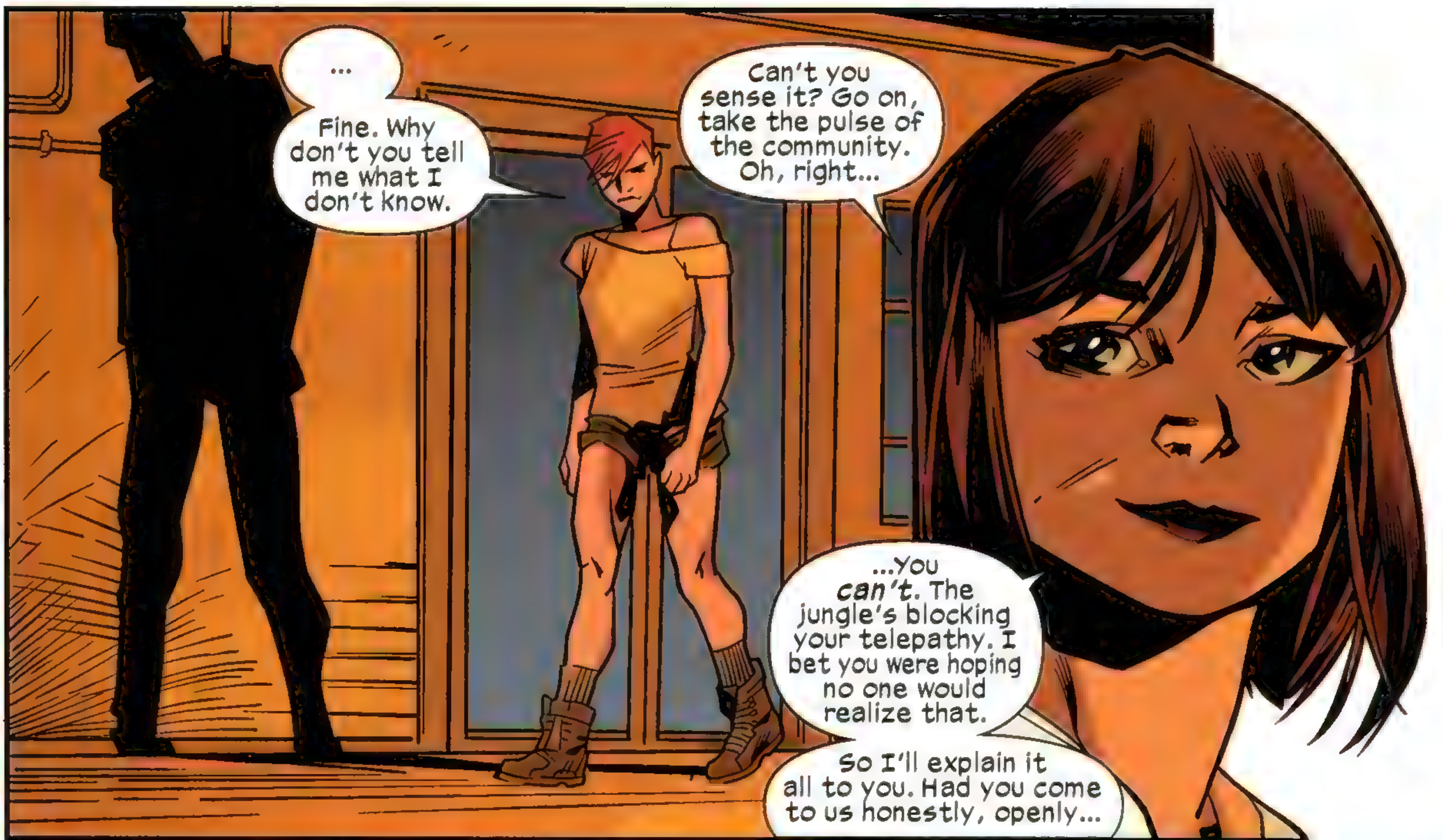
This is why Tian exists! But you, and your arrogance, will pin all these people to this... ghetto in the desert, and let your enemies plot your extermination at their leisure.

You are an **embarrassment** to all mutants.

...

...Well?



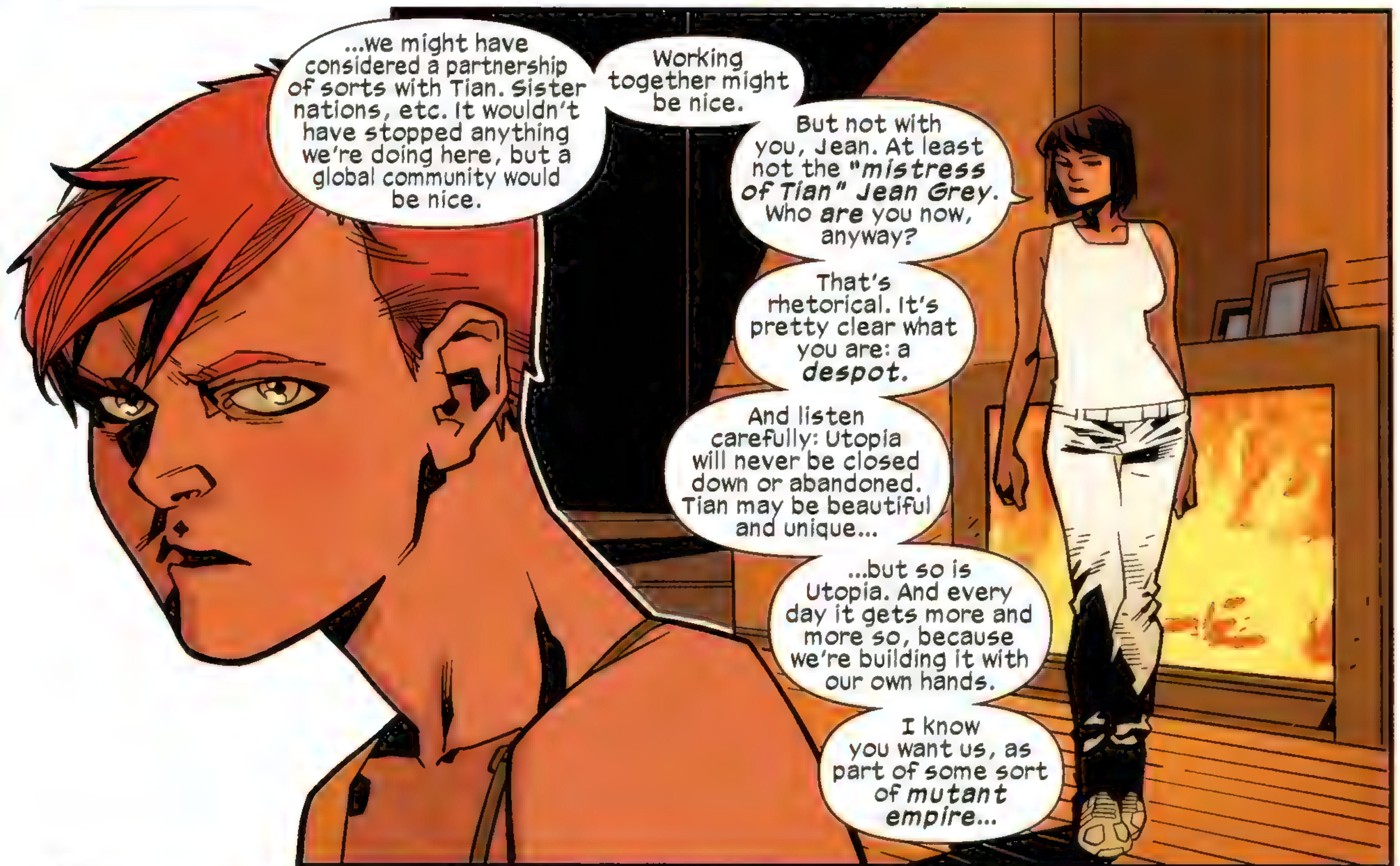


...
Fine. Why don't you tell me what I don't know.

Can't you sense it? Go on, take the pulse of the community. Oh, right...

...You *can't*. The jungle's blocking your telepathy. I bet you were hoping no one would realize that.

So I'll explain it all to you. Had you come to us honestly, openly...



...we might have considered a partnership of sorts with Tian. Sister nations, etc. It wouldn't have stopped anything we're doing here, but a global community would be nice.

Working together might be nice.

But not with you, Jean. At least not the "*mistress of Tian*" Jean Grey. Who are you now, anyway?

That's rhetorical. It's pretty clear what you are: a *despot*.

And listen carefully: Utopia will never be closed down or abandoned. Tian may be beautiful and unique...

...but so is Utopia. And every day it gets more and more so, because we're building it with our own hands.

I know you want us, as part of some sort of *mutant empire*...



...but you'll never, ever have us.

[illegible]

Utopia
won't kneel
to anyone.



Whoa!

We're safe.



She promised me.

What are we seeing, then?



A Utopia that's learned how to win...



...Without ever having to fight.



Did you hear what I said?

Go home...

"...Go home,
Jean Grey."



AUTHORIZATION
CODE: PHOENIX FIVE
FIVE FIVE.

PROJECT
SUPERSONIC, BRING
TO STANDBY
STATUS.

PREPARE FOR
ACTIVATION.



NEXT: WORLD WAR X!

NEXT: WORLD WAR X!



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